Assessment of scientific reports on global warming and climate change

3413. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has fully assessed from various scientific reports about the global warming and climate change in coming years;

(b) if so, the findings thereof including the specific happing on the Brahmaputra and Ganga basin arising from Tibet Plateau;

(c) the remedial measures, if any, already taken and likely to be taken in the near future;

(d) whether any specific authority or cell is created for this purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Government has accepted the findings of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in 2007, which provides an assessment of the scientific literature published in the international scientific journals on various aspects of climate change including *inter-alia* science, impact, adaptation, vulnerability and mitigation, it is also reported that glaciers in the Himalayas are receding faster than in any other part of the world. The current trend of glacial melt suggests that the Ganga, Indus, Brahmaputra and other rivers that criss-cross the northern Indian plains are likely to become seasonal rivers in the near future as a consequence of climate change.

As a part of the Initial National Communication of India to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), studies in regard to the vulnerability assessment and adaptation to climate change in various areas such as water resources, agriculture, forests, natural ecosystems, coastal zones, health energy and infrastructure have been made which have also projected future climate scenarios and likely impacts in these areas.

(c) Being aware of the likely implications of climate change the Government has released National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) on 30th June 2008. The National Action Plan outlines eight Missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable habitat, water, sustaining Himalayan Ecosystems, Green India, sustainable agriculture and strategic knowledge for climate change. These National Missions are being institutionalized by respective Ministries for implementation.

(d) to (f) The National Missions are to be institutionalized by the respective Ministries and will be organized through inter-sectoral groups. Ministry of Environment has been designated for coordinating the implementation of all the Missions.